

dimensions are only relative, and do not limit the scope of the invention. With the long strands, the paint is applied more evenly, since the long strands can protrude, during the rolling action, through the wire mesh and paint distribution is effected on both sides of the wire mesh being painted.

The paint applicator arrangement according to the present invention is particularly adaptable to the painting of wire, steel bar, picket and all similarly constructed fences such as partitions, cages, window guards, etc. Moreover, the arrangement disclosed is adaptable to painting corrugated surfaces, for example, the sides and roofs of metal buildings. Of course, there are many other applications of paint to either smooth or uneven surfaces where the present invention would find usefulness. In Fig. 3 is illustrated the use of the applicator 14 upon a vertical surface 31. The painter or operator of the applicator 14 is protected from spattering paint by the arcuate shield or baffle 25 which collects the paint that may spatter from roller 23.

Although a particular embodiment of the invention has been disclosed and described, it is, of course, understood that other applications are contemplated which come within the spirit and scope of the appended claim.

What is claimed is:

As an article of manufacture, a paint applicator having in combination a handle, a roller, supporting means for said roller comprising a pair of confronting Z-shaped members, each consisting of spaced generally parallel legs interconnected by a web portion arranged normal to said legs, said members disposed in a common plane with said handle with the web portions of said members arranged in endwise alignment, said members having certain corresponding legs secured to one end of said handle and other corresponding legs supporting said roller, whereby

the axis of said roller is arranged to be supported transversely of the axis of said handle, an applicator guard comprising an arcuate plate, said plate secured medially to the aligned web portions of said Z-shaped members, a rectangular frame having two opposite sides thereof cooperating with rolled over ends of said guard to provide rigidity to said plate, the two other opposite sides of said frame subtending said arcuate plate, said other opposite sides of said frame provided centrally thereof with inwardly disposed offset portions coacting with the roller supporting legs of said Z-shaped member to hold said rectangular frame substantially perpendicular to the plane of said Z-shaped members, whereby said guard plate is held substantially concentric with said roller to shield the operator from spattered paint.

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